On the Trail of Lewis and Clark

On July 30 Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals, returned to the Academy from a month of collecting on the Idaho-Montana border. Dr. Orr and his wife made their base camp near Lolo Pass, high on the Lolo Trail which Lewis and Clark traveled in 1805. From their base they worked out into parts of the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness area, making a survey principally of the birds and mammals and to a lesser extent the land snails and fungi. This region is one of the least explored parts of the United States, and it is to be hoped that it will remain an outpost for many big game species for many years to come.

The Orrs' camp was shared by red crossbills and evening grosbeaks which, Dr. Orr says, "seemed to enjoy watching the intricacies of museum techique." Their mascots were a pair of young jumping mice which have now taken up residence in the San Francisco Bay area.

Sidewalk Superintendents Convene at Academy

From his office window, second floor of African Hall, Friday, August 6, 1948, the editor of *ANL* and *PD* saw a big red truck fitted out with boom, winch, and other drilling gear pull into the alley east of the Aquarium. When it pulled away in a few hours to another spot, near the corner of African Hall, it left a length of pipe sticking out of the ground to mark the first of four 30-foot test borings to determine the nature of subsoil and the depth of water-table in the plot between the Aquarium and African Hall.

Even editors have some normal instincts; this one had to stop on his way back from lunch to contribute his bit toward the success of operations. Public supervision was otherwise, at the moment, mainly in the hands of small boys, but several members of the Academy staff soon joined the critical circle to discuss with much heat and more or less light the tehnical aspects of the work being done.

But the thing that struck home to these few—and to all the staff when the word got around—was that on this day the Academy's long-projected $1,500,000 building program began to be a physical reality in a way that all could see: work being done. These borings were for the purpose of securing technical information which has a bearing on the construction which will start this fall—the great new building which will house the Morrison Planetarium, Morrison Auditorium, and the Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature.

Ernest S. King

In the spirit of adventure and with a love and experience of nature, Ernest S. King—fresh from high school graduation—shipped for the Galápagos Islands as assistant herpetologist on the Schooner *Academy*, June, 1905. During this 17-months expedition of the California Academy of Sciences, the boy King proved a capable man in the field and became the lifelong friend of his shipmates and of the Academy, even though he did not afterwards follow a career in science.

Ernest S. King died at his home in San Jose on July 1, 1948.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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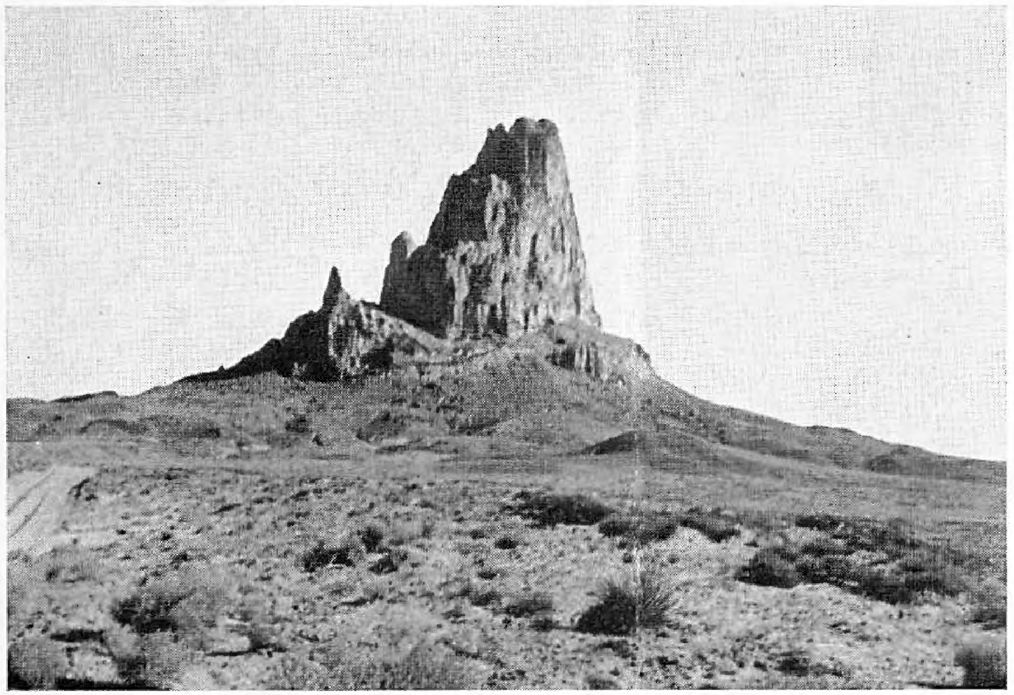

Photograph by J. T. Howell

AGATHLA

guards the gate to Monument Valley in the Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona.

(See page 2)

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August Announcement

THE REGULAR AUGUST MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in Room 214, Simson African Hall, East Wing of the Academy Buildings in Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday afternoon, August 25, at 3 o'clock. Mr. John Thomas Howell, Assistant Curator of Botany in the Academy, will give a talk entitled

PLANT HUNTING IN THE NAVAJO COUNTRY

illustrated with over one hundred kodachrome slides by Mr. Charles Townsend.

Those who have heard Mr. Howell before will be pleased at having another opportunity to hear one of this roving botanist's adventures in pursuit of plant life. This time he managed to team up with a hard-driving party from the Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club, which was determined to see in one week all there is to see in the vast and difficult piece of country which includes Navajo and Rainbow Bridge National Monuments in northern Arizona and southern Utah. While the S.C. detachment clambered through the ancient cliff ruins of Betatakin, Keet Seel, and Inscription House, Tom Howell managed to fill his plant presses on the run. So great was his devotion to his calling—this being for him an official expedition of the Botany Department—that he sweated it all the way down the foot trail to Rainbow Bridge and back without so much as unmuzzling his camera. He now humbly acknowledges his great debt to his friend Mr. Townsend but for whom this would be a story in words only.

Leaving the Sierra Club to regroup and to repair its battered motor transport, Tom Howell embarked on the second phase of this summer's adventure, with a motor party which took the road through Monument Valley and on up to Arches National Monument in eastern Utah, returning by way of southwestern Colorado and New Mexico.

Those who have not yet seen this great land of the red cliffs and long spaces will enjoy a revelation in color, and those who know and love it can submit rapturously to the exquisite torture of reminiscence.

The public is cordially invited.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its July meeting approved the applications of Mr. Carl W. Carson, Mr. E. Reginald Craig, Mr. Richard A. Crippen, Jr., Mr. Gordon L. Grosscup, Mrs. W. H. Hannam, Mr.

J. J. Krohn, Miss Sue Stewart Kuechler, Mr. Will F. Moorish, Miss Mary Nimitz, Mrs. Benjamin J. Older, Mr. Edward J. Rhodes, Mr. Donald T. Saxby, Mr. George M. Scott, Miss Edith Silberstein, Mr. Harley F. Wilson, and Mr. Robert F. Wilt for REGULAR MEMBERSHIP and of Leonard G. Barton, Thomas S. Briggs, Franklin Devore, Eric Gerstung, John G. Hoaas, Peter Jones, Madeleine Krois, Doris Noste, Theodore L. Petters, Donald Plumtree, and Metta B. Weddleton for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after August 20, they will be considered elected.

ACADEMY EXPEDITION REACHES DAWN REDWOODS

IN A LETTER dated July 21, 1948, Dr. J. Linsley Gressitt, leader of the California Academy of Sciences–Lingnan University joint expedition to the Dawn Redwoods region of China, told the Academy staff that he is now in the area of the field party's biological survey and collecting project of this summer.

When news of the discovery of the remarkable "living fossil" *Metasequoia*—believed an ancestor of our California Sequoias—was first made public through Dr. Ralph W. Chaney's dramatic University of California expedition of six months ago, scientists at once foresaw that much could be learned about the origin and evolution of the plants and animals of North America through intensive study of the forms of life associated with these Dawn Redwoods of the remote interior of China in Hupeh and Szechuan provinces.

Preliminary examination of the flora living with *Metasequoia* appears to indicate that it is largely identical with that found in fossils of the Miocene in our own Pacific Northwest as represented in the John Day Basin of eastern Oregon. Because plant-eating insects and their parasites and predators are usually very specific in their choice of food, it is possible that the insect fauna of the Dawn Redwoods region is today similar to that which lived in the Pacific Northwest millions of years ago. In effect, Dr. Gressitt is searching for "living fossil" insects which may be as interesting to entomologists as *Metasequoia* is to botanists. Although *Metasequoia* became extinct twenty million or so years ago in North America, insects living on it and with it today in China may prove ancestral to, or in some species identical with, those associated now with our Coast Redwood and its relatives.

This expedition, sponsored by the Academy's Department of Entomology, will send out material from the Old World for parallel study with the extensive New World collections now in the Academy. Since the continents of Asia and North America were connected in remote geologic times, specialists who will work on this material may find the answers to many puzzling questions of evolution, migration, and distribution of species—questions which have been raised rather than answered by the fragmentary evidence of scattered fossil records and incomplete surveys of living forms.

The Academy is financing the expedition; Lingnan University of Canton is providing two staff members. The leader, Dr. J. Linsley Gressitt of Lingnan University, is a research Associate in Entomology of the California Academy of Sciences. The two institutions will share the material collected.